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Russia, the Country of Extremes by Madame N. Jarintzoff

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*The Harvard Medical School of China, Incorporated.* Fourth Annual Report of the Executive Committee. Boston. 1914. Pp. 52.

The Harvard Medical School of China at Shanghai was incorporated in 1911, put into operation in January, 1912, and is now ready to graduate its second class. Owing to the lack of funds for a separate establishment, it has during its period of operation been associated with the Red Cross Society of Shanghai, making use of the buildings of that society, an association which has proved of mutual advantage. The staff of the school comprises six doctors and surgeons, beside nurses, business manager, etc. The number of students is not large, owing to the high standard set for admission—a standard which admitted only six out of twenty applicants for admission last fall but which has thereby secured a select student body.

The relation which the school bears to the community was illustrated by the part it took in the care of those wounded in the fighting which took place during July and August, 1913, in and near Shanghai. Another more important service which such an institution owes to the community, is that of research along lines which particularly affect that community; but unfortunately, the staff is small and the work heavy so that such work can be carried on only “sporadically.”

*Russia, the Country of Extremes.* By MADAME N. JARINTZOFF. New York: Henry Holt. 1914. Pp. xv, 372.

One of the most interesting descriptions of Russia that has come recently from the press, is that by Madame Jarintzoff. Written from the revolutionists' point of view, it deals mainly with political events. The first chapter contains a graphic description of the Smolenski School, the work of the *Intelligentzia* in “spreading culture through the sombre masses of the working and non-working population of the large towns,” and the House of Enlightenment, the Russian “People's Palace.” It also contains an analysis of the Russian character, which seems to be so difficult for the Western Europeans to understand.

Another interesting chapter is the one entitled *Students' Movements and Political Life*, describing the events that have taken place among the *Studentchestvo* during the last forty years, beginning with the decree of 1873 forbidding Russian youths to study abroad, a period in which the struggle for academic auton-

omy, as a natural consequence, assisted by the oppressive action of the government, was converted into a political revolutionary struggle. A vivid description, quoted from one of the students, is given of the demonstration in 1901 of Moscow University against the famous Temporary Rules which forced the students into the army. At the present time, according to Madame Jarintzoff's account, the old established universities have come so entirely under governmental control that the best teachers have left and the student body has been entirely changed. That group which furnished the idealists and revolutionists of the former period have gone into private schools and "the dandies, sportsmen, and 'academists' seem to be left alone in the universities proper."

Other chapters deal with the Russian clergy, the monastic prisons, the Cossacks, and the agents provocateurs. Madame Jarintzoff tells again the legend of the latter days of Alexander I and describes the assassination of Alexander II.

*Friendly Russia.* By DENIS GARSTIN. London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1915. Pp. 248.

Mr. Garstin's book is a charming portrayal of the friendly side of Russian life which has nothing to do with that "wilderness of wolves, knouts, serfdom, and cruelty" which the name Russia is rather too apt to suggest to our minds. The land of the revolutionists seems far away from this "pleasant easy life among pleasant easy people," whose favorite expression is "Nitchivo," "never mind."

At the present time, the last chapters are of especial interest, conveying the author's impressions of Russia in war time. The declaration of war awakened an enthusiasm and a feeling of unity such as Russia has not known of late years. To the peasants the war is a Holy War and one which has awakened all their Pan-Slavic hopes and aspirations. An interesting picture is that of the attack on the German embassy in Petrograd and another is the impression of efficiency conveyed to this onlooker by the Russian mobilization, an efficiency unexpected by those who knew Russia in the days of the Russo-Japanese War.